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Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of tracking animal transfers with animal passports, the
2 method comprising steps of:

3 creating an animal passport to represent a transfer of animals from a transferor to a
4 transferee;

5 assigning a unique passport identifier to each created animal passport, thereby providing a
6 unique identification of the underlying transfer; and

7 repeating the creating, and assigning [[steps]] for each of at least one subsequent transfer
8 of one or more of the animals, wherein the animal passport created for each subsequent transfer
9 also records the unique passport identifier assigned to each most-recent previous transfer of those
10 animals.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the animal passports is
2 signed by a transferor and transferee who are parties to each transfer, thereby certifying the
3 transfer represented by the signed animal passport.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 recording the animal passports in a repository.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 using the animal passport identifiers to track locations of the animals.

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1 Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherin the animal passports reflect a
2 complete lifetime of the animals and are therefore usable to track transfers of the animals
3 throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports reflect a
2 complete lifetime of the animals and are therefore usable to track locations of the animals
3 throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfers are transfers of
2 ownership.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfers are transfers of
2 possession.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherin at least one of the transfers is a
2 transfer of ownership and at least one of the transfers is a transfer of possession.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the creating and
2 assigning [[steps]] are also repeated for subsequent transfers of animal products derived from the
3 animals.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports further

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2 specify individual animal identifications of the transferred animals.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein additional animals
2 are included in one or more of the subsequent transfers, and wherein the animal passport created
3 for such subsequent transfers also records the unique passport identifier assigned to each most-
4 recent previous transfer of those additional animals.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein animal passports are
2 created for each transfer during a lifetime of the animals and further comprising the steps of:

3 recording each of the animal passports in a repository, wherein each of the animal
4 passports further comprises along with a specification of how many animals are represented by
5 each transfer, a location of the animals during a timeframe covered by the animal passport, and
6 an identification of one or more transferors and one or more transferees who are parties to each
7 transfer; and

8 determining a country of origin for one or more selected ones of the animals using each
9 unique passport identifier associated therewith to determine all locations in which the selected
10 ones have been located throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to Claim [[13]] 1, wherein:

2 each of the animal passports further comprises a specification of how many animals were
3 transferred in the transfer represented by that animal passport, a location of the animals during a
4 timeframe covered by the animal passport, and an identification of one or more transferors and

5 one or more transferees who are parties to that transfer; and

6 further comprising:

7 determining, for a selected one of the animals, all locations in which the selected
8 animal has been located throughout its lifetime, using each animal passport associated with the
9 selected animal; and the step of

10 preparing a country of origin claim for the selected animal, using the determined
11 country of origin locations, wherein the country of origin claim indicates whether the selected
12 animal has been located only in a selected country throughout the lifetime of the animal.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein animal passports are
2 created for each transfer during a lifetime of the animals and further comprising the steps of:

3 recording each of the animal passports in a repository, wherein each of the animal
4 passports further comprises along with a specification of how many animals are represented by
5 each transfer, a location of the animals during a timeframe covered by the animal passport, and
6 an identification of one or more transferors and one or more transferees who are parties to each
7 transfer;

8 constructing a chain of transfers for a selected one of the animals using [[a]] each of the
9 most-recent previous unique passport identifier identifiers recorded on the animal passports
10 associated therewith with the selected animal, thereby determining to determine all locations in
11 which the one or more selected ones of the animals have animal has been located throughout
12 [[their]] its lifetime; and

13 verifying a country of origin claim for the selected [[ones]] animal by comparing the

14 determined locations to one or more locations stated in the country of origin claim.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): A system for uniquely identifying animals transferred in groups,
2 the system comprising:

3 means for associating a unique identifier associated with each transfer of a group of
4 animals;

5 means for a repository for recording the unique identifiers in a repository identifier of
6 each of the transfers, along with a specification of how many animals are in the group and an
7 identification of one or more transferors and one or more transferees who are parties to the
8 transfer; and

9 means for linking linkage from each subsequent transfer of any of the animals to a most-
10 recent prior transfers transfer of those animals, the linkage comprising a specified association
11 between by associating a new unique identifier associated with each such subsequent transfer and
12 specifying an association between the unique identifier of the prior transfer and the new unique
13 identifier of the subsequent transfer.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 16, wherein the linkage enables
2 further comprising means for tracing transfers of a subset comprising one or more of the
3 transferred animals by accessing, for each of the transfers of the animals in the subset, the
4 specified association between the unique identifier of the most-recent prior transfer and the new
5 unique identifier of the subsequent transfer for that subset.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A system method for identifying groups of animals from birth to
2 death, comprising:

3 means for associating a unique identifier with animals transferred from an original owner
4 thereof;

5 means for associating a different unique identifier with each subsequent transfer of the
6 animals or any subset thereof; and

7 means for linking, at each subsequent transfer, the different unique identifier with the
8 unique identifier associated with a most-recent previous transfer of the animals in that
9 subsequent transfer.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The system method according to Claim 18, wherein additional
2 animals are included in one or more of the subsequent transfers, and wherein the unique
3 identifier of the most-recent previous transfers of those additional animals is also linked with the
4 different unique identifier of the subsequent transfer.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): A method of tracking transfers with passports, the method
2 comprising steps of:

3 creating a passport to represent a transfer of one or more entities from a transferor to a
4 transferee;

5 assigning a unique passport identifier to each created passport, thereby providing a unique
6 identification of the underlying transfer; and

7 repeating the creating and assigning [[steps]] for each subsequent transfer of one or more

8 of the transferred entities, wherein the passport created for each subsequent transfer also records
9 the unique passport identifier assigned to each most-recent previous transfer of those entities.

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